

The Southwester

www.swdc.org

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FREE!

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“We Voted for Barack Obama for President”

Churches, schools, offices and homes have been proudly echoing with cheers and often tears at the news of the election of Barack Obama, the first black President of the United States.

The Near SW-SE DC neighborhood voted overwhelmingly for President-Elect Barack Obama at the Nov. 4, 2008, election

Four election districts in our neighborhood cast a total of 4,575 votes for Obama, 90% of the turnout.

Washington, D.C., as a whole cast 210,403 votes for Obama, a 92% turnout – the highest percent of any state or territory in the United States. D.C. gave



President-Elect Barack Obama

him its 3 votes in the Electoral College, which helped him win a total of 365 votes nationwide. Neighboring states of Virginia and Maryland also joined the national majority.

The four voting places in Near SW-SE are Precinct 127 at King-Greenleaf Recreation Center, Precinct 128 at Friendship Baptist Church, Precinct 142 at Jefferson Jr. High, and Precinct 131 at the Van Ness Elementary School building.

[The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, publisher of this newspaper, as a 501 c 3 nonprofit corporation does not take part in electoral politics].



Local residents happily display the election results edition of the Washington Post and signs “We Voted For Barack Obama For President Nov. 4, 2008.”



Parade of Lighted Boats Dec. 6

The annual Parade of Lighted Boats up and down the SW Channel and Potomac River will bring out 50 yachts, sailboats and patrol boats to brighten the SW Maine Ave. Waterfront Sat. Dec. 6 from 7:30 pm to 9 pm

A huge lighted Christmas Tree, music and hot chocolate will be in the park above the marina at 6th & Water St. SW starting at 6 pm.

Neighborhood Assembly Meeting Nov. 24

Please join the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly in November for its last meeting of the year. SWNA will hold its monthly community meeting at 7:30PM on November 24 in St. Augustine's Church (6th St and M St SW).

This month's meeting will address a few issues of great importance to our neighborhood as we hope to hear an update on the development in our community as well as the future of this newspaper. We

also hope to address the security issues with which we are currently dealing. Hope to see you there!



**HOLIDAY INN
COUPON FOR
DINNER – BUY
ONE GET ONE
FREE – PAGE 5**

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ANC Meeting Notes Nov. 10

Here are the highlights from tonight's meeting (by Max Skolnik)

Dec. 6th, 6pm: Parade of Lighted Boats in the Marina.

Nov. 25th: Army Community Covenant signing on the Odyssey cruise ship.

Bus Routes: ANC 6D is soliciting opinions on the terminus of the 70 bus route (near Half and P Streets). Riders have complained about the 3-12 minute layover. WMATA is considering plans to change the location of the layover.

Verizon: ANC 6D voted to support the franchise between the Office of Cable Television and Verizon to offer FIOS service to the District.

Marathon: ANC 6D voted to oppose the route of the Sun Trust National Marathon as it would cut off residents living below P Street on March 21, 2009 from 8:30-11:30am.

Corcoran: ANC 6D voted to approve a motion to intervene in the appeals case against the Corcoran School of Art. This pertains to Corcoran's inability to follow-through on agreed upon community benefits.

New Commissioner: ANC 6D congratulated Jane Jorgensen for winning the ANC 6D01 seat vacated by Commissioner Skolnik (me).

'Capitol Bistro' in the Heart of a Capital City

By Erich Hosbach, SWNA Board Member

Tucked away in the Holiday Inn Capitol Hill is Capitol Bistro, a sleek inviting environment offering a smart menu of traditional bistro fare. From heart healthy salads to meatloaf and potatoes, there is truly something for every palate. The airy dining room has several seating areas surrounding a permanent buffet station, and a large private room is tastefully hidden behind frosted glass doors.

BOUNTIFUL BUFFETS

A bountiful breakfast buffet is served daily and a lunch buffet and dinner

menu are poised to appeal to the local community with its ever changing theme menu. A delicious Iron Grilled Steak Salad demonstrates the chef's strong focus on freshness and up to date presentations; and an appealing Apple Galette, served warm, with caramel and vanilla bean ice cream was the perfect accompaniment to a frothy cappuccino.

SERVICE IS SMOOTH

Service is smooth and attentive, and a discount card is available for frequent diners.

Be sure to visit this exciting new neighborhood dining alternative and show your support for those businesses that have invested in our community.

See ad on page 5.

Southwest Community Calendar November 19 - December 31, 2008

WED. NOV. 19 BASEBALL ZONE Parking Plan hearing by DDOT, Friendship Baptist Church, Delaware Ave. SW & I St. SW, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

WED. NOV. 19 WASA hearing, SW Branch Library, Wesley Pl & K St. SW, 7 pm

MON. NOV. 24 SWNA public meeting, St. As's Church, 6th & M St. SW, 7:30 pm

THURS. NOV. 28 Thanksgiving

FRI. NOV. 29 School holiday

FRI. NOV. 29 SW Night at Arena Stage at Crystal City – Next to Normal–8 pm 202-488-3300

SAT. DEC. 6 SW Library Book Sale, Wesley Pl & K St. SW,

SAT. DEC. 6 Parade of Lighted Boats, 6th & Water St. SW, shore celebration 6 pm; parade all along Maine Ave Waterfront channel, 7:30 pm

MON. DEC. 8 ANC 6D meeting open to the public, St. As's Church, 6th & M St. SW, 7 pm

NO DEC. MEETING OF SWNA

THURS. DEC. 25 Christmas

WED. DEC. 31 New Year's Eve

THURS. JAN. 1 New Year's Day

WEEKLY, BI-WEEKLY

KOMEN TOASTMASTERS – First & Third Sat., S.W. Library, 10 am.

FIL-AM TOASTMASTERS – Second & Fourth Wed., S.W. Library, 6:15 pm.

SCHOOL ST. TOASTMASTERS – Every Tues., 400 Virginia Ave. S.W., Room 488 – noon.

WASHINGTON STAMP COLLECTORS Club – First & Third Wed., Christ United Methodist Church, 300 block of I (Eye) St. S.W., 7 pm 202-291-6229.

S.W. KIWANIS – First & Third Mon., Christ United Methodist Church, 4th & I St. S.W., 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

NEW SOUTHWEST TOASTMASTERS – Every Wed. GSA Bldg – 7th & D St. S.W., Room 5009 (inside cafeteria), noon.

LABYRINTH WALK – First & Third Wed., Westminster Church, 4th & I St., SW, 8-9:30 pm preceded by Yoga Nidra at 7:00 pm. on the first Wed. & Tai Chi at 7 pm on second, third & fourth Wed.

WEDNESDAYS AT 3 pm– Practice GED test – free – takes 4-1/2 hrs; walk in at SW Library, between 3rd & 4th St., between I (Eye) and K SW, second floor; picture ID required. 727-6976 or 727-1616 (M, T, Th, F).

Please submit calendar items for January events to voice mail – 202-554-8560 or by email to thesouthwester@yahoo.com or by US mail to PO Box 70131 by Wednesday, December 3, 2008.

The Southwester

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Deadline for next edition, ads or text:
Wednesday, December 3, 2008.

Display Advertising Rates

(New rates effective with May 2007 issue)

The Southwester carries four columns, each 2½" wide. Each page has a printed area of 10 x 13¾".

Black and White

Sixteenth page (2½ x 3 7/16")	\$ 50
Eighth page (2½ x 6 7/8")	\$ 90
Quarter page (5 x 6 7/8")	\$170
Half page (10 x 6 7/8")	\$300
Full page (10 x 13¾")	\$550

The Southwester has no classified ads.

Color

In addition to the prices listed above, full process color ads pay an additional \$100 for a half page or smaller and \$200 additional for a full page.

Ad Deadline: Wednesday, December 3, 2008

Police Meet Police Service Area 104 Residents

By John McGrath

The October meeting of police with residents of Police Service Area 104 was held at Greenleaf Senior Building, 1200 Delaware Ave. SW, and was attended by Ward 6, Councilmember Tommy Wells, First District Commander David Kamperin, US Attorney's Office Douglas Klein, several police officers assigned to PSA 104, Public Housing Police, and over 78 concerned citizens.

Although the police reported that overall crime reductions have occurred within PSA 104, six recent offenses that took place within a few blocks of each other, Monday, October 6 from 5:40 pm to 12:40 am Tuesday, October 7, 2008. Locations of offenses were: assault with intent to rob 400 I (Eye) St, SW; assault with intent to rob 400 M St; ADW Brick Unit Block of N St, SW; Aggravated Assault 1000 6th St, SW; Robbery Delaware and M St's SW; Armed Carjacking 201 I (Eye) St. SW.

The arrest of one juvenile involved in the aforementioned carjacking has lead to the conclusion that several of the recent crimes may be the results of the same group of juveniles. (Following this meeting, the victim of the Aggravated Assault,

Mark Blank, a resident of Waterside Towers, died of his injuries and arrest warrants were issued for three more juveniles.)

Residents asked (1) what the police are doing to abate the juvenile problems (police said that they are doing more patrols throughout PSA 104, including 6th Street, 4th Street, and Third and O Street, SW Circle) and (2) what residents can do (a resident at Waterside Towers Apartments agreed to talk to her management company about security, explore

the possibility of citizen observers (orange hat patrols) on 6th Street, SW and as well as improved lighting on 6th Street (Arena Stage, The View Apartments on 6th Street as well as Waterside Towers).

Many other issues were raised including:

■ status of a shooting victim in the Unit Block of N Street, who lived near 6th and H Street, SW

Continued on Page 3



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Arena Stage's *33 Variations* Moves to Broadway

A little over a year after its world premiere production at Arena Stage, *33 Variations* will play Broadway in February 2009 starring two-time Academy Award winner Jane Fonda as musicologist Katherine Brandt. Arena Stage collaborated with Tectonic Theater Project and playwright/director Moisés Kaufman through the development of the piece to its premiere production in September 2007. *33 Variations* also received a full staging in San Diego at La Jolla Playhouse last spring.

"Arena Stage is extremely proud that this significant theater project is on its way to Broadway," comments Arena Stage Artistic Director Molly Smith. "We are

following in the footsteps of *The Great White Hope*, *Moon Children*, *Execution of Justice*, *K2*, *Tintypes*, *The 1940's Radio Hour* and *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, among others, which all went to Broadway from Arena over the years."

Broadway Musical Comes to Arena Stage

A production of *Next to Normal* is scheduled at the Arena Stage (Crystal City stage), Nov. 21, 2008 – Jan. 18, 2009, with Broadway veterans Alice Ripley (*Side Show*); J. Robert Spencer (*Jersey Boys*); Aaron Tveit (*Wicked*); and Director Michael Greif (*Rent*).

Tickets at 202-488-3300.

A Night of Jazz at Westminster Church

By Shakira Thomas

At 6:00 p.m., a crowd of approximately 300 people strolled into Westminster Church and filled the pews as Vernon Wolst, the opening act, serenaded the crowd with his vocals. Panelist Bill Clark, saxophone player Bruce Swain, drummer Tiaoch Sadia, flugelhorn player Muneer Nasar, and bass player Steve Novosel were other jazz players who performed.

Jazz Night has been taking place at Westminster Church in southwest, D.C. every Friday night for the past ten years. Middle-aged residents come from all over the metropolitan area to enjoy professional performances from some of the finest jazz instrumentalists and vocalists in the music industry.

Rita Mansfield-Greene, an Arlington, Va., resident says she started coming to Westminster Church on Friday nights about ten years ago.

"After getting off from work, there would be so much traffic on the bridge," Mansfield-Greene said. "Instead of sitting in traffic, I decided to come here and check out Jazz Night before heading home," she said. "I came, fell in love, and haven't stopped coming since," Mansfield-

Greene said.

Because of her dedication and positive attitude, Mansfield-Greene became popular amongst attendees at Jazz Night. She is now a singer and host for Monday Night Blues, which is also taken place at Westminster Church. Monday Night Blues began two years ago and usually averages 160 attendees a night. Both Jazz Night and Monday Night Blues charge a \$5 fee for admission.

"Someone once referred to us as the most unchurched church in Washington, D.C.," Mansfield-Greene said. "They said those sanctified people also serve some good food," she said.

While enjoying the show, attendees have a choice of delicious fish dinners starting at \$6.50 a plate.

"The baked whiting and shrimp eggplant is usually the first thing to go," said Dewayne McMillan, utility worker and cook for Jazz Night.

"My favorite thing to order is the fish," said Eunice Finch, attendee of Jazz Night for the past ten years. "One of my favorite vocalists is Dick Smith, he has a beautiful voice and performs occasionally on Friday nights," Finch said.

POLICE

From p. 2

■ ongoing problems with street gambling at 6th and H Street, SW

■ need for better lighting at the King Greenleaf Recreation Center

■ need to trim trees that block visibility of traffic lights at Amidon School and several M Street locations

■ problem with advertising panels on new bus shelters in SW that obstruct easy visibility up and down the street

■ King Greenleaf Seniors asked about a new bus shelter at Delaware and M Street

■ A King Greenleaf Senior asked that

Guardian Angels be enlisted to improve security.

■ A resident at the O Street circle asked when loitering ceases to be a nuisance and becomes a chargeable offense

■ The police provided a handout discussing personal security alarm devices

■ The police will follow up on obtaining bar orders for individuals loitering on private property at Channel Square Apartments.

A representative of the U.S. Attorney Office for the First Police District also discussed the criteria for when juvenile offenders may be charged as an adult. Only rarely are juveniles changed as adults and then only when past age 16 and only for the most severe crimes.

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Book & lyrics by Brian Yorkey

November 21–January 18

Directed by Michael Greif
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Alice Ripley J. Robert Spencer
(*Side Show*) (*Jersey Boys*)

Aaron Tveit Jennifer Damiano
(*Wicked*) (*Spring Awakening*)

This darkly funny and haunting new musical explores how far two parents will go to keep themselves sane and their families intact.



See video, photos, and hear the music at arenastage.org!

TICKETS:

www.arenastage.org or (202) 488-3300

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Illustration by Matt Mahurin

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Used Books at SW Library

The Friends of the SW DC Library is having a short, pre-holiday sale so people can load up on reading material and possibly find some affordable gifts. It will be simple: just three hours on Saturday, December 6th, from 1 to 4pm. All are welcome to come, Friends members or not. The Library address is 900 Wesley Pl SW, which is near I St and 3rd SW. For questions, please contact Virginia Randolph at 202-863-0564 or swfriends@yahoo.com.



Also on December 6th and starting at 10 a.m., The Friends will be planting the area in front of the library with about 1,000 tulips. We are looking for people of all ages who'd like to see flowers next spring and maybe learn a little something about gardening. Experienced gardeners are also welcome. Anyone willing to help prepare the beds for planting beforehand, please call Christine at 202 484 005 or swfriends@yahoo.com. We have lots of weeding to do!

Catholic U Psychology Dept. Helps Caregivers Cope

A study by doctoral student Sarah Halpert of Catholic University in NE DC — funded by a grant from the National Institutes of Health — aims to help those who are caring for an elderly member of the family who has memory problems. In an ad (below) she is looking for a dozen or so volunteers in the age group of 45 to 65 WHO ARE NOT CARING for a family member like that — as a control group to her research.



Clinical psychology doctoral candidate Sarah Halpert and Professor James Howard of Catholic University of America.

A volunteer is given a take-home packet of seven clinical self-report measures (e.g., anxiety, depression and stress) and asked questions over the phone similar to tests given to job applicants. A volunteer is given a \$45 stipend — part of the grant from the National Institutes of Health.

"Caregivers are often responsible for

remembering important information such as medication regimes, doctors' instructions and bill payments," says doctoral grad student Sarah Halpert. The three year study at CUA aims to "help us to better understand the plight of caregivers, especially its consequences, and how we can best help them by way of interventions, research or more effective care."

(See the ad below.)

WASA at SW Library Nov. 19, 7-8 pm

Explanation and public comments on WASA's plan to increase water-sewer service charges to pay for the Two Billion Dollar plan to build huge tunnels to hold back rain-water runoff from overflowing into the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers.

RIVER PARK FRIENDS Of Southwest Washington, DC Needs YOU

River Park Friends provides grants to charitable, educational, and community development organizations serving the Near Southwest.

- Some of our most recent grantees are:
- South Washington/West of the River Family Strengthening Collaborative
- EmmaUS Learning Center
- OurPlaceDC
- Children's Environmental Health Network
- Camp Arena Stage
- SWNA Scholarship Fund
- SWNA Youth Activities Task Force
- Living Classrooms

Your contribution to River Park Friends, a 501(c)(3) organization, is tax-deductible and will help us maintain our support for programs that are building good citizens in Southwest DC.

Please make your check payable to
River Park Friends and send to:
River Park Friends, Coralie Farlee, President,
389 O Street, S. W., Washington, DC 20024.
For further information about River Park Friends,
call Coralie Farlee at 202-554-4407,
or Joyce Bouvier (Secretary) at 202-488-4419.

We support The Southwester by our advertising.

Catholic U Needs Research Volunteers

We are currently looking for adults age 45 to 65 to participate in our research investigating the impact of caregiving and non-caregiving on one's emotional and cognitive well-being. The study consists of a take-home packet and a phone interview, which can both be completed in the comfort of your own home. The entire study takes less than 2 hours and you will receive a stipend of \$45 for your time. Interested non-caregivers should contact Sarah Halpert at CUA's Cognitive Aging Laboratory at 800-549-2600 or via email at sarah.halpert@gmail.com

Volunteers Needed

*The Southwester is a monthly volunteer newspaper
and needs more volunteer help!*

Writers, Editors and Reporters needed

*Southwest neighbors—do your part to help each month
from your home computer using email*

Volunteers to seek out ads are needed, too.

Contact The Southwester via phone or email:

202-554-8560

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Be a part of your neighborhood newspaper!

Dr. Beryl Carter Rice Honored

At the annual luncheon of the D.C. Federation of Civic Associations at the Washington Navy Yard, former SWNA President Beryl Carter Rice was awarded its *"Outstanding Leadership in Community Service Award,"* which was presented by Brian Stockton, Vice President Citi National Business Banking Trainer, Citibank.

In his remarks Mr. Stockton stated: "In her youth, Dr. Rice studied painting and later in her adult life used her paintings to explore the legacy of breast cancer in her family. Her works were displayed in the 2004 US Senate exhibit entitled Creative Aging: Beyond Words: An exhibition of artwork of older Americans.

"Her artistic ability is not limited to oil on canvas, as Dr. Rice was featured in the film Do not Go Gently, which won

4 international film awards and was narrated by Walter Cronkite.

"So beyond being a giant in her community she is an accomplished artist and actress.

"Let me close with a quote from Martin Luther King Jr.

"Everyone can be great....because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You need only a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love," said Dr. King.

"Although you have many degrees Dr. Rice, it's your heart of grace, soul of love and commitment to your Southwest Community that gives me the honor to present you with the Outstanding Leadership in Community Service Award."


SW Chamber Players Perform

By David Ehrlich

At St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, the Southwest Chamber Music Players performed an evening of men's close harmony a cappella music featuring arrangements of Fritz Kinzel, the 1958 YALE WHIFFENPOOFS' legendary leader. Performing were singers from The Augmented Eight and Top of the Seventh,

both groups who boast a high proportion of old Yalies. Their program was partly their own, part Yale Songbook.

In addition, the SWCP's Harold Yaffe, clarinet; Dilyana Kirova, bassoon; and David Ehrlich, piano, performed Louise Farrenc's rollicking op. 45 trio in E-flat. For information contact: David Ehrlich, 202/484-6354, or www.southwestchamberplayers.org



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SWNA Brings Breast Cancer Awareness to the Community

In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month and the fact that minority women are disproportionately affected by breast cancer, SWNA took the opportunity to address the issue during its monthly meeting on October 27.

Lorraine Nagy from the Joint World Bank/IMF Health Services Department shared with us her research on breast cancer, which affects 1 in 9 women. She shared with us how a combination of genetics and barriers to treatment lead African American women to have higher mortality rates than Caucasians. Ms. Nagy also explained how education can break down their barriers and lead to changes in lifestyle factors that may save lives.

We also heard from Beth Beck of the Capital Breast Care Center. Ms. Beck is the Executive Director of the center, a non-profit that provides free or low cost mammograms to uninsured and underinsured women. In addition, the center provides community outreach, patient education,

and support services to women (and men, who can also get breast cancer). She emphasized the importance of early detection and mammograms, explaining that women as young as 32 have been diagnosed with breast cancer by their clinic. Capital Breast Care Center is located at 650 Pennsylvania Ave, SE Suite 230.

Finally, Thelma Jones, a resident of Southwest shared the story of her own battle with breast cancer and encouraged all women to be proactive in addressing cancer-related issues. No one would ignore a broken arm, so neither should they ignore a suspicious lump. She explained that women may have to broach the subject with their doctor, who may not initiate the conversation on his/her own.

SWNA looks forward to working with these brave women and the residents of Southwest in the future as we work to break down barriers to treatment in the fight against breast cancer.



Nov. 19 DDOT on Ballpark Parking Plan

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) will host a quarterly public meeting on the Ward 6 Ballpark District Performance Based Parking Pilot Program on Wed., Nov. 19 at 6:30 pm at Friendship Baptist Church, Delaware Ave. SW & I (Eye St. SW).

The meeting is an opportunity for residents, business owners, churches and other stakeholder groups to provide feedback on the first year of parking operations under

the *Performance Based Parking Pilot Zone Act of 2008*.

The meeting agenda will include:
How curbside revenue will be allocated.
Multi-space meter revenue collected.
Ward 6 Visitor Parking Pass (VPP) program.

Potential signage improvements for 2009.

Recommendations from community stakeholders for 2009.

One New ANC Member; Others Return

One new member of SW-SE ANC 6D was chosen at the Nov. 4 election to fill a vacancy, and the other six were re-elected.

The makeup of the commission starting in Jan. 2009 will be:

ANC6D-01 Jane Jorgensen

ANC6D-02 David Sobelsohn

ANC6D-03 Ron McBee

ANC6D-04 Andy Litsky

ANC6D-05 Roger Moffatt

ANC6D-06 Rhonda Hamilton

ANC6D-07 Robert Siegel

Lois Diggs Remembers SW

By Barbara "Lois" Diggs

It's been 20 years since I lived in D.C., and each time I come home to visit, I am shocked afresh by how the Southwest of my childhood is vanishing. Suddenly, there's a stadium outside my mother's living room window. The Waterside Mall is gone. St. Matthew's Church has been demolished. So, when I heard that *The Southwester* wanted me to write about my life since receiving the Southwest Scholarship Award, I was happy to oblige. It's good to know the scholarship still exists, and that Southwest, at its heart, is still the same.

When I received my award in 1987, I used the money to buy textbooks at my school, Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut). Back then, I was tempted to become a psychologist but after I graduated in 1991, I decided to become a lawyer. I graduated from Stanford Law in Palo Alto, California in 1996 and moved to work in a large corporate firm. A few years later, I met my husband, also a lawyer. Both of us being adventurous sorts, we decided that it would be a grand adventure to move to Paris, France, which we did in 2001.

After practicing arbitration law for awhile in Paris, I quit my job to try my hand at writing. I am now a freelance writer, currently working on a book about



Barbara Diggs in her cap and gown at graduation from Wesleyan University in 1991, with her mother Barbara Z. Diggs, left.

intercultural wedding planning. Freelancing is ideal for me, as I can spend lots of time with our 14-month old son.

I am very grateful to Southwest for granting me the scholarship. It was wonderful to have the support of family, friends, and my community as I started that all-important phase in my life. Although I have lived many places since leaving D.C., nowhere else have I found the village-like warmth of our tiny quadrant. I hope that no matter what childhood relic disappears next in Southwest, this will never change.

—Barbara "Lois" Diggs

Ann's Beauty Supply Shop

Has moved to 125 L St. SE, a block from the Navy Yard Metro New Jersey Ave. stop, behind the church.

202-554-5588



Allen A. Flood, M.D.

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King-Greenleaf Recreation Center Wolfpack Football Teams

Lined up with their coaches are the smallest of the King-Greenleaf Recreation Center "Wolfpack" football teams, below, the Mighty Mites.



The Wolfpack team, in white at right, lines up during a hard-fought game at Cardozo High School football field on 13th St. NW.

One of Greenleaf Rec's 65 lb. team – at far right in the lower left corner of the picture – runs around end for a touchdown.



"Computers for Kids" Visit Baltimore

By Thelma Jones

The field trips by the SWNA Youth Activities Task Force started as a result of Dwyane Ruffin, one of the Computers for Kids students saying to me: "Mrs. Jones, how come we don't go on field trips -- like to museums and places like that." So besides attending some Nationals baseball games, we



Computer students and adult volunteers posing at the Thurgood Marshall statue in Baltimore on a SWNA Youth Activities Task Force field trip. Front Row - left to right: Paris Holman, Dwayne Ruffin, Jr., Nickolas Moses, Jabaar Shabazz. Second Row - left to right: Attalah Shabazz, Carolyn Mitchell, SWNA VP, Benay Haynes, Tantanina Brown, Karita Watkins, Rick Bardach, YATF Co-Chair. Photo by Thelma D. Jones

went to see City at Peace's play at the Ark in SE, went to Baltimore to visit the Reginald Lewis Museum, saw the Thurgood Marshall statue and visited Harbour Place. Our third field trip was to Six Flags.

On the trip to Baltimore, we did a brief tour of the Reginald Lewis Museum and then listened to a lecture which had a lot of references on Thurgood Marshall. Afterwards we toured the city a bit. At the Thurgood Marshall statue, we did a photo op. From there, we went to the Harbour Place, enjoyed some of the outdoor entertainment, had lunch and then took a nice peaceful stroll on the waterfront, sat for a spell and just observed our surrounding which was quite interesting. Needless to say, the kids weren't ready to go so they stopped every opportunity to enjoy the entertainment or anything distracting which would delay our return to the van. They really enjoyed the all-day trip!

Volunteer Tutors Help Amidon-Bowen Kids

By Blossom Athey

In all, some 250 to 300 volunteers are walking the walk one-on-one with Amidon-Bowen students each week.

Some are young, some mid-age, and some very senior. Some travel by foot, some by car, van or bike. Some walk with a cane and there is an occasional wheelchair – all destined for schools where dedicated teachers welcome their one-on-one work with precious young students.

They are all volunteers who neither get, nor want, any publicity – just an opportunity to give something back for what they've been given. Many volunteered year after year at Anthony Bowen and without a second thought have followed their students to the Amidon location. Likewise, many have returned to the combined school after years of working with Amidon students and teachers.

Among those currently tutoring, assisting, reading, and mentoring Amidon-

Bowen are volunteers from the community and from the following organizations:

- The National Defense University
- The Congressional Budget Office
- McDermott, Will and Emery
- Office of the Comptroller of the Currency
- International Trade Commission
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Foster Grandparents
- Everyone Wins
- Experience Corps

This scene is played out at schools all across our city, and the volunteers will tell you that they have a tremendously rewarding experience from which they benefit as much or more than the children they tutor.

As we concern ourselves with the crime and poverty in our city, we can be certain that if this walk with children is done with continuity, it will turn out to be at least an "ounce of prevention."

Bowen Elementary Scores Up 27%, 18%

Test scores for 2008 show Bowen Elementary made excellent progress, as did Jefferson Middle School

Bowen's proficiency + advanced test scores went up from 35% in 2007 to 62% in 2008 in Reading and up from 23% in 2007 to 41% in 2008 in Math. Bowen met the AYP goals in both Reading and Math.

At Jefferson Middle School Reading scores went up from 34% to 46% proficient or advanced and Math scores went up from 38% to 46%. That was still not

enough to meet the schools AYP goals.

[Ed. Note - This article uses percentages for Black/Non-Hispanics only because totals are not reported for the entire school. Both schools are over 90% Black/Non-Hispanic. School scores are on the website for the No Student Left Behind, Office of State Superintendent of Education, which is www.nclb.osse.dc.gov. Just fill in the blanks down the left side of the page to get the school and year of the report card you want to see.]

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